ED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1750
13 October 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ IAEA says all elements of its monitoring and verification plan for Iraq are in place; notes cooperation and support of Iraqi authorities.

+ General Assembly considers annual report of International Court of Justice and question of Security Council representation.

+ General Committee recommends that General Assembly include new sub-item on emergency assistance for Afghanistan on current agenda; An Agenda for Development to be considered in special high-level plenary meetings.

+ Secretary-General expresses appreciation for Panama's decision to give asylum to former Haitian military leaders and their families.

+ General Assembly President welcomes Peace Agreement signed by Government of Niger and CRA Touaregs; says it should be inspiration for resolution of other conflicts in Africa.

+ United Nations to mark World Food Day -- 16 October -- and International Day for Eradication of Poverty -- 17 October -- with special ceremonies next week.

+ European/North American regional preparatory meeting for 1995 World Conference on Women to be held in Vienna from 17 to 21 October.

* * *

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said that with its establishment of a continuous presence in Iraq, all elements of the plan for ongoing monitoring and verification of the country's facilities are now in place. In a report dated 6 October, the Agency said monitoring and verification measures would evolve as technical needs arose and as advanced technologies became available. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a note dated 10 October, and discussed by the Council this morning.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The last two rounds of high-level technical talks between the IAEA and the United Nations Special Commission, on the one hand, and Iraq, on the other, marked a turning point in the level of cooperation and support extended by the Iraqi authorities, according to the report. That change enabled inspection work to be conducted effectively and expedited the monitoring and verification process. Iraq had assured the Agency and the Special Commission that it would respect their rights and priveleges, while they had reiterated their commitment to carry out their tasks in a manner that respected the country's legitimate concerns relating to sovereignty, independence, security and dignity.

Implementation of the monitoring and verification plan did not mean that the IAEA had foreclosed its right to investigate any aspect of Iraq's former nuclear weapons programme, the report stressed.

* * *

The President of the International Court of Justice, Mohammed Bedjaoui, today appealed to Member States to review their criteria for use of the Court and to recognize that a referral to it of a legal aspect of a broader political dispute might calm the situation. Introducing the Court's annual report to the General Assembly, he said its credibility as a means to settle disputes peacefully was largely in the hands of States. When they were as ready to have recourse to it as any other political organ, the Court would have achieved such credibility.

Also today, the Assembly began considering the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters. Brazil said enlargement of the membership was no longer a matter of "whether or not", but rather of "how large and how soon". Among the factors to be considered in that regard were: adequate participation of both industrialized and developing countries; increase of permanent and non-permanent seats; adequate representation of regional groups; and the capability of members to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Malaysia called for the abolition of the veto power, saying the veto undermined the principle of sovereign equality and the concept of collective security. It also marginalized the role of the non-permanent members of the Council.

* * *

The General Committee today recommended that the General Assembly include a new sub-item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan" on the agenda for its current session. That sub-item would be added to an item on strengthening the coordination of United Nations humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, and would be considered directly in plenary.

(more)

The Committee recommended that the item entitled "An Agenda for Development" be considered in special plenary meetings at a high level, and that subsequent negotiation on it take place in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial). It also recommended that the agenda item entitled "Observer status for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the General Assembly" be considered directly in plenary.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the decision of the President of Panama, Ernesto Pérez Balladares, to give asylum to Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras and Brigadier-General Philippe Biamby, former Commander-in-Chief and Chief of Staff of the Haitian Armed Forces, respectively, together with their families. In facilitating their departure from Haiti, Panama was rendering valuable assistance to efforts to implement Security Council resolution 940 (1994), he said.

* * *

General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) yesterday expressed satisfaction at the signing of a Peace Agreement on 9 October at Ouagadougou by the Government of Niger and the Touaregs of the Coordination de la résistance armée (CRA). He commended the parties for their courage and high sense of responsibility, and said the Agreement was an important step towards the restoration of peace in that part of Africa. It should also provide inspiration for the resolution of other conflicts afflicting the continent.

* * *

The United Nations will mark World Food Day -- 16 October -- with a ceremony in the Economic and Social Council Chamber on 17 October. The theme for the Day is "Water for Life", reflecting the increasing scarcity and deteriorating quality of water worldwide. The ceremony will be addressed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire). Prime Minister James Fitz-Allen Mitchell of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will deliver the keynote address.

Established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) biennial conference in 1979, World Food Day is observed to increase awareness of the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty and to stimulate action to feed the world. The Day also marks the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.

The United Nations will also observe International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October with an outdoor event combining music and testimony. This year's commemoration will highlight 1994 as International Year of the Family by raising world awareness of the contribution of the family to fighting poverty. It is being sponsored by the Department of Public Information, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations and the International Movement Fourth World.

(more)

* * *

High-level representatives from Europe and North America will attend a regional preparatory meeting for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Vienna from 17 to 21 October. With the theme "Women in a changing world -- call for action from a regional perspective", it will be the first such meeting in the region to address women's concerns. It is being organized by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in cooperation with United Nations agencies, national committees, European institutions and non-governmental organizations.

* *** *